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Governor Lemanu Travels to the District of Manu'a in Response to Increased Seismic Activity.

"This has been a great opportunity to hear your concerns because, in Tutuila, we do not hear the booming sounds or feel the tremors as you do here in Manu'a. We will respond quickly to the immediate actions needed to ensure a swift and safe evacuation from coastal villages, villages with only one main road, and villages that need a good water source at evacuation sites."



Governor Lemanu visited the district of Manu'a on Monday, August 15, 2022, to follow up on the recent seismic activity in the surrounding areas of Ta'u, Ofu, and Olosega.

On Monday, August 15, 2022, the Honorable Lemanu P.S. Mauga and a team made up of Department of Health Director Motusa Nua, Department of Homeland Security Director Samana

Ve'ave'a, Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources Director Taotasi Soliai, Department of Education Deputy Director Roxanne Salave'a, and Governor's Office staff Sualevai Sualevai, visited the Manu'a islands to speak with concerned residents and village council members regarding the issue of the recent seismographic activities surrounding the Manu'a islands.

Upon arrival, Governor Lemanu was briefed by the Department of Homeland Security in Manu'a that the scientists and NOAA researchers had completed their assessments at this time. Their findings lean towards the conclusion that the recent seismographic activities are not primarily caused by the Vailulu'u seamount, American Samoa's most active submarine volcano. However, they do not rule out that the cause for these tremors is due to perhaps other volcanic activity in the vicinity of the Manu'a islands.

"Our residents are in fear and have evacuated," stated Sao Nua of Ta'u. He continued, "We want to know what ASG plans are for displaced villagers of Fitiuta, Ta'u, and Faleasao. We hear the loud booms and tremors throughout the night and feel our lives are in great danger." Other residents suggested that ASG share its plans with residents as soon as possible. The village of Faleasao voiced that the villagers would need a consistent water supply on the mountainside, where there is currently none, to support evacuating further inland. In the villages of Ofu and Olosega, their main concern was improving escape routes to higher ground, making them accessible by vehicles.

Governor Lemanu addressed the residents of the Manu'a District with much concern and compassion. "You are all going through a time where we are all experiencing these natural occurrences in real-time. The last major volcanic eruption near Manu'a was dated back in the 1860s, before any of us or our parents and grandparents were alive. I commend you all for evacuating to higher ground; you have taken the proper precautions and reacted to protecting your lives first." He continued, "This has been a great opportunity to hear your concerns because, in Tutuila, we do not hear the booming sounds or feel the tremors as you do here in Manu'a. We will respond quickly to the immediate actions needed to ensure a swift and safe evacuation from coastal villages, villages with only one main road, and villages that need a good water source at evacuation sites."

Governor Lemanu further explained that at this time, more off-island resources, Federal personnel, scientists, and equipment are on the way to assist in gathering more facts and information on locating the source of the seismicity and further explaining if these occurrences are linked to pre-eruption activity. Governor Lemanu also pointed out that our local resources have been mobilized to assist throughout the Manua islands. The Department of Public Health has Behavioral and Mental Health physicians staged in both Ta'u and Ofu/Olosega, as well as various first responders from the Department of Public Safety and Department of Homeland Security, and the Search and Rescue Office. Governor Lemanu stated, "These off-island resources should arrive this week and be mobilized here to Manu'a as soon as possible. As soon as my office receives more information, it will assist us in formulating effective strategies for keeping you safe."







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